

SENATE BILL 576
By Gilbert

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1,
relative to compensation and expenses of members of the
general assembly.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) There is created an advisory commission to be known as the commission on
compensation and expenses of the general assembly.

(b) On or before February 1, 1998, the commission shall make
recommendations to the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of
representatives as to what the commission believes to be the appropriate compensation,
office and home office expense allowance, individual expense allowance and travel
expense reimbursement for members and officers of the general assembly. The
commission shall also recommend an appropriate mechanism, if any, for future
adjustments to such compensation, expense allowances and travel expense
reimbursement. The commission shall also propose rules for allowable office, home
office and individual allowance expenses and rules for travel reimbursement.

(c)

(1) The commission shall consist of ten (10) members, five (5) of whom
shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate and five (5) of whom shall be
appointed by the speaker of the house. These ten (10) members shall be chosen
from each of the three (3) grand divisions in a manner so as to achieve as equal

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a representation as possible. Membership shall include residents of urban as well as rural areas of the state. In making the appointments authorized herein, the speakers shall appoint citizens who have demonstrated integrity and are widely recognized as knowledgeable and successful in the areas of business and finance. Such appointees should have demonstrated leadership ability, broadly based knowledge, and business or professional ability. No member of the commission shall be an elected municipal, county, or state official or an employee of state or local government, or an employee of any association of governments or government officials.

(2) In making such appointments, the speaker of the senate shall consider one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by the League of Women Voters, one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by the National Federation of Independent Business, and one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by the Tennessee Association of Business. In making such appointments, the speaker of the house shall consider one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by Common Cause, one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and one (1) appointment to be made from a list of three (3) nominees to be supplied by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Association.

(d) The commission shall meet in Nashville at such times and places as it deems necessary.

(e) The commission shall elect one (1) member to serve as chair of the commission.

(f) The commission may establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary for the performance of its duties.

(g) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually incurred in the performance of their official duties. Such reimbursement shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(h) The office of the comptroller of the treasury, the office of the state treasurer and the office of legislative administration shall provide staff and such other assistance as may be necessary for the commission to fulfill its duties.

(i) The commission shall cease to exist upon filing its recommendations with the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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